



SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1972

REPORT PRESENTED BY

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

URBAN DISTRICT OF SAICOMBE
REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1972

P r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report of the Health of the District during 1972. Included in this Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

Statistics

The population dropped by ten persons down to 2,300 due to there being 10 more deaths than births. There were 23 births giving a Standardised Birth Rate of 12.0 per thousand population which is lower than the National Rate of 14.8. On the other hand the 33 deaths, giving a Rate of 9.3 per thousand population are less than the National Average of 12.1 per thousand so this is encouraging. Also there were no infant deaths and no illegitimate births.

Environmental Health

No major problems occurred. A young lady who had arrived from the Middle East was notified as a smallpox contact. She was placed under observation for the requisite period and remained well. A holidaymaker staying at a local hotel developed symptoms of Salmonella food poisoning but returned to her home in the North of England before investigations were complete. The M.O.H. concerned was informed. Two local residents developed enteritis and vomiting a few hours after eating some grapes. The remainder of the grapes were sent for analysis to the Public Analyst in Exeter, with negative findings. Both patients (a husband and wife) made a speedy recovery from their illness.

I wish to thank Members of the Council and my Colleagues on the Staff for all their help during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1973.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

PART-TIME DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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MISS J. MURDOCH

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Matters affecting Public Health are dealt with by the Public Health Committee and by the full Council.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1972

Table 1

Figures for 1971 are shown in brackets

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Salcombe Urban District

2,300 (2,310)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	- 10	(-3)
Migration in or out	...	...	NIL	(-107)
Total increase or decrease	...	...	- 10	(-110)

GENERAL STATISTICS:-

Area of Salcombe Urban District in Acres

1,297

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books

1,143 (1,119)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	0.881	(0.862)
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	1.773	(1.780)
Number of Persons per House	...	...	2.012	(2.065)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...			145

Rateable Value of the District 1st April

£134,613. (£131,597)

Sum represented by a New Penny Rate

£1,245 (£1,222)



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VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1972

Table 2

Figures for 1971 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS:

<u>Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population</u>	12.0 (15.6)
Area Comparability Factor for Births ...	1.20 (1.33)
<u>Number of Live Births</u>	

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	11	12	23
Legitimate	11	12	23
Illegitimate	0	0	0
<u>Number of Stillbirths</u>	0	1	1

DEATHS:

<u>Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population</u> ...	9.3 (9.2)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths ...	0.65 (0.71)
<u>Number of Deaths</u>	

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
All ages - Total	12	21	33
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births ...	0.0	(0.0)	

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate	14.8 (16.0)	Death Rate	12.1 (11.6)
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u> ...	17.0 (18.0)		
(Infants under 1 year of age)			

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1972

Table I

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Age Group in years</u>					
		Under	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over
Measles	1	1-	1-	5-	15-	25-	65
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

Table II

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Incidence by quaters</u>			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	1	0	0	0	1
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	0	0	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

Sect. 47 of 1948 Act.

No statutory action was necessary for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Sect. 50 of 1948 Act.

No burials took place under this section of the Act.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1972

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B4 ENTERITIS AND OTHER DIARRHOEAL DISEASES	0	1	1
B19(1) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BUCCAL CAVITY ETC.	1	0	1
B19(2) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, OESOPHAGUS ...	0	2	2
B19(4) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INTESTINE ...	0	1	1
B19(7) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BREAST ...	0	1	1
B19(11) OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS ...	1	1	2
B46(5) OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM	0	1	1
B28 ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	6	5	11
B30 CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	2	3	5
B46(6) OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	0	2	2
B31 INFLUENZA	0	1	1
B32 PNEUMONIA	1	1	2
B46(7) OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	1	0	1
B34 PEPTIC ULCER	0	1	1
BE48 ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS.	0	1	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES.</u>	12	21	33

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITALS

Salcombe is served mainly by the Plymouth and District Hospital Management Committee. There are large general hospitals at Plymouth and the South Hams Hospital at Kingsbridge, which is a general practitioner hospital, has 13 beds. Maternity beds and Geriatric beds are provided at Broom borough Hospital, Totnes, under the Torquay Hospital Management Committee.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Devon County Council provides the following services:-

Domicillary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, an ambulance service, vaccination and immunisation procedures.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL SERVICES.

The Area Director of Social Services operating from the Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes, Telephone: TOTNES 3665, is responsible for providing a social work service under the Children's Acts, the Mental Health Act 1959 and the National Assistance Acts, to the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped and homeless persons and families. The Social Services Department also administers the Home Help Service, the Social Work Service to Schools, the Occupational Therapy Services and Residential Homes and Centres.

4. LABORATORY SERVICES

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice-cream, are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The Chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter, and also by the South West Devon Water Board.

5. MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

There are three general medical practitioners and one dentist at Salcombe. There is also a HEALTH CENTRE in Shadycombe Road, Telephone: SALCOMBE 2284.

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1972

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the Salcombe Urban District received water supplied by the South West Devon Water Board. Regular samples of the supply are taken by the Board to ensure its wholesomeness. There has, therefore, been no cause for any action to be taken by the Department in this connection.

I am indebted to the Director of Water Supplies, South West Devon Water Board for the following summary of analyses:-

Bacteriological Analyses 1972 South West Devon Water Board Area.

	<u>P.H. Labs</u>	<u>S.W.D.W.B. Lab.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Dec. 71 - Jan. 72	157	-	157	4
Jan. - Feb.	112	-	112	2
Feb. - Mar.	152	-	152	nil
Mar. - April	88	-	88	nil
April - May	148	-	148	nil
May - June	181	44	225	1
June - July	168	17	185	2
July - Sept.	293	51	344	3
Sept. - Oct.	209	20	229	2
Oct. - Nov.	134	12	146	1
Nov. - Dec.	117	8	125	2
	<u>1759</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>1911</u>	<u>17</u>

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There has been no change during the year with reference to the disposal of sewage. The existing arrangements are as follows:-

Batson Area: Untreated sewage from Lower Batson is discharged on to the foreshore near Batson Green.

Salcombe:

The early part of the year saw the completion of the sewerage scheme for the major part of the town as originally proposed but it was soon quite obvious that considerable quantities of sea water was entering the new system via the numerous outfall connections which had **not** been renewed.

Early action was taken to remedy these serious defects by renewing the many outfalls and carrying out other minor alterations to the scheme. The result is that during normal conditions the scheme is operating satisfactorily.

The effect of this can be seen along the waterfront of Salcombe which was previously severely contaminated by sewage particularly at low water but is now considerably cleaner and free from the objectional aesthetic conditions which formerly prevailed.

North Sands:

Untreated sewage discharges at a point on the foreshore adjoining the Castle.

South Sands

Untreated sewage is discharged at a point near Splat Cove.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of domestic and trade refuse throughout the district has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. Refuse is collected weekly from all the premises in the area and daily, twice or three times per week, from hotels and business premises on request. This service is greatly appreciated by hotels and food shops whose facilities for storage is very limited.

The use of paper sacks has continued and these and their holders are supplied to many hotels and shops etc., in the district. They have considerably improved the collection service and conditions under which refuse is stored prior to collection. The service is also used by boats in the harbour.

The existing arrangements whereby refuse is tipped at Molescombe Quarry in conjunction with adjoining Authorities, has continued very satisfactorily. The volume of refuse increases annually, and the present vehicle and staff are just able to cope with current demands particularly during the summer months when these are at the greatest. During the year periodic collections of bulky refuse are also collected when a request is made for this to be done.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Routine inspections are made throughout the year of food premises in the district and, where necessary, informal action is taken to ensure compliance with the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The standard of food hygiene is, on the whole, satisfactory. Seasonal staff are engaged during the summer months at hotels and other business premises, many of whom have no previous knowledge or experience of food hygiene.

It is not possible to inspect all the hotels and guest-houses during the year, the many duties carried out by your staff usually results in Food & Drugs inspection being considerably cut down but, when possible, inspections are made in conjunction with other matters when advice is given to food handlers and improvements obtained.

Routine inspections of food shops and restaurants are also made as often as possible and it is pleasing to note the co-operation one receives from many of the occupiers of these premises.

Samples of ice-cream are taken from the retail suppliers. These are reasonably satisfactory but where necessary advice on sterilisation and cleaning was given, particularly with regard to soft ice cream machines.

Small quantities of unsound food have been condemned after being voluntarily surrendered. This is mainly tinned foods which are obviously unfit.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

Reinspections have been made of premises covered by the provisions of this Act, from time to time. Shops and Offices in Salcombe usually employ very few staff and any contraventions of the Act are dealt with on an informal basis.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT - STATUTORY NUISANCES

It is pleasing to note that very few complaints are made to the Council of statutory nuisance. Any matter which is reported is usually dealt with on a personal and informal basis, and results in the nuisance being abated with the least possible delay.

It has not been necessary to take any formal action in this respect.

CARAVAN SITES CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is only one licensed camping site within the Urban District and the conditions imposed in granting the licence have now been complied with. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the camp is maintained in a satisfactory manner.

There are 40 caravans and 10 tents.

Practically the whole of the Urban District is within an area covered by an Article 4 Direction under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act and regular inspections of the district are carried out to ensure camping is not taking place within the areas covered by the Direction.

HOUSING

The Housing conditions of the district are satisfactory - there being no unfit houses.

The Council makes Grants available for the provision of standard amenities in those houses that lack these facilities but only a very small number of grants are given annually as most properties are already provided with these.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council dwellings is fairly constant and it is not expected that there is a need for further Council house development providing that the number of Council dwellings available for letting is not reduced.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The following is a summary of information required in respect of the year 1971. A total of 20 inspections was made in respect of 33 premises listed in the Factories Register.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power

(Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6)

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Written Notices	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power

(Section 7)

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	18
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	12
Written Notices	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

(iii) Other Premises under the Act

(Section 7)

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Site of Building Operations, Works or Engineering Construction, but Excluding Outworkers' Premises)

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	11
Written Notices	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

2. Cases in which Defects were found NIL

PART VIII OF THE ACT OUTWORK

(Sections 133 & 134)

There are no registered Outworkers.

